

REMARKS

Filed concurrently with the foregoing SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE is an RCE. The RCE is also submitted with the AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE filed April 21, 2008 after final rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 9-18 are now in the application. Claim 1 was amended by action of the RCE. Claims 15 and 16 were amended concurrently with the RCE.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shim et al., Journal of Polymer Science: Part A: Polymer Chemistry, Vol. 36, 2997-3012 (1998), independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate crosslinking agent limitations entirely absent from this reference. As such, the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome.

Regarding the rejection for Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamashita et al. (US 6,140,418) in view of Nakagawa et al. (US 7,129,294) and further in view of Yamanaka (US 6,773,758, applicants submit this rejection has been also overcome by the amendment of Claim 1, for the following reasons. The amended Claim 1 recites a curable composition containing three components, isobutylene block copolymer (A), alkenyl-terminated isobutylene polymer (B) and a crosslinking agent (C). The crosslinking agent is a hydrosilyl group-containing compound. Neither Yamashita et al. (US 6,140,418), Nakagawa et al. (US 7,129,294) nor Yamanaka (US 6,773,758) teach or suggest such a curable composition. Especially, Yamashita et al. does not disclose the isobutylene rubber containing an alkenyl end group, as pointed out by the Examiner. Neither does Yamashita et al. disclose a hydrosilyl group-containing compound as a crosslinking agent.

The definitive point of the amended Claim 1 is that the thermoplastic elastomer composition comprises a hydrosilyl group-containing compound as the crosslinking agent (C). Such a crosslinking agent is neither taught nor suggested in the cited references. Accordingly, the curable composition of the present invention simply could not be considered obvious based on these references.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9-18 should now be in allowable form. Passage of the application to issue is in order.

Respectfully submitted,

/Richard G. Lione/
Richard G. Lione
Reg. No. 19,795
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4200